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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina/China

SUBJECT Activities of Leaders of the Viet Nam Quoc Dang

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

August 1949-April 1950

1. Before the fall of Canton to the Communists in mid-October 1949, Pham Thai (Chinese FAN T'ai ), aka, LY Hung-chiang, LI Hung-kong, Jules Hung Yuen, went to Kwedlin on the urgent invitation of General PAI Chung-hsi. Phan Thai is a member of the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (QDD) and is an associate of Vu Hong Khanh. PAI was anxious to form a Sino-Vietnamese force to fight the Viet Linh in Indochina. The sudden Communist advance into Kwangsi forced the retreat of PAI's troops to Nanning, where they were joined by Vu Hong Khanh, who was with his QDD troops in the Sino-Viet Nam border area, and by Luu Duc Trung, who came from Hoihow, Hainan. In Namning, they discussed the possibility of combining 200 QDD troops with 50,000 Chinese soldiers under PAI's command to move across the border into Indochina when the Communist forces reached southern Kwangsi. "Intelligence agents" were dispatched to Yuman Province to contact QDD troops there and to organize them to invade Indochina in the Laokay area while troops under Vu Hong Khanh invaded in the Langson area. Pham Thai was sent to Hong Kong to negotiate an agreement between the QDD and PAI on the one hand, and the French High Commissioner and the Bao Dai Government on the other. Fram left Namning on one of PAI's planes the day before the Communist troops arrived.

2. Pham's optimism about the future of the QDD and the fight against the Viet Minh was not justified by the course of events after his departure from Nanning. The defection of LU Han in Kunming to the Communists made it impossible for the agents sent to Yunnan to contact QDD supporters there and organize them for an attack on the Viet Minh for China. In Hong Kong, Pham contacted the representatives of French High Commissioner Pignon and the representative of the Bao Dai Government, and received a message that Pignon was prepared to make arrangements for the organization of troops along the lines of the PAI Chung-hsi-QDD coalition.\* (B-4) Negotiations were in progress while Vu Hong Khanh and his forces, pressed by the advance of the Communists and planning to attack the Viet Linh, crossed the Indochina border near Langson. About 26-27 December 1949, Vu's forces, through accident and lack of coordination, collided with French forces in the area. A battle ensued and Vuss troops were also attacked in the rear by the Viet Minh. Vuss group was decimated, and most of his officers, who had been trained at the Chengtu Military Academy, were killed. Pham Thai, in Hong Kong, heard reports of the battle in the Hong Kong press and sent telegrams to Pignon at Saigon, to the French commander at Langson, and to Vu at Langson. None of these messages

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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succeeded in halting the battle, since contact could not be established either with Vu or with the French troops fighting in the jungle. Eventually Vu was able to contact the French Commander at Langson, and he is now in Hanoi. (B-1)

- 3. Inu Duc Trung, who returned to Hoihow following the fall of Nanning, is now in Taipeh and has arranged for George YEH, Nationalist Foreign Minister, to invite Pham Thai to Formosa. Pham intends to visit Taipeh in the first part of May for a week or two, then go to Manila, and then to Hanoi. With Inu in Taipeh are Ta Nguyen Minh and two Vietnamese associates named Phan and Hung.
- 14. Vuong Minh Son is still in Canton, teaching English, and has had limited contacts with the Communist authorities.
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  - \* Washington Comment. See and reports referenced therein for previous information concerning negotiations between Bao Dai and PAI Chung-hsi.

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